The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretation of developments occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Science is the systematic classification of experience.—George Henry Lewes.

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WHOLE NO. 1272 — WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, 1935 — FRANK MORRISON, Secretary — VOL. 25, NO. 35

6-Hour Day, 5-Day Week, and High Wages Are Emphasized by Morrison

Secretary of the A. F. of L., in Labor Day Message, Says Shorter Hours and More Equitable Distribution of Wealth Through Higher Pay Must Be Substituted For Long Hours and Low Living Standards Imposed on Workers By Anti-Union Industrial Magnates, Whose "System Leads Us Back To the Sweatshop and Places Labor at the Whim of the Employer."

The necessity of accompanying production based on labor-displacing machinery with shorter hours and higher wages in order to provide employment and higher living standards for all workers is emphasized by Frank Morrison, secretary of the American Federation of Labor, in his Labor Day Message for 1935.

Holding that low-wage jobs in new mass-production industries are no solution for unemployment caused by automatic processes, Mr. Morrison declares that employers must recognize organized labor's demand for progressively decreasing hours and higher remuneration equitably to distribute our increased industrial production and avoid a return to the sweatshop.

Mr. Morrison's Labor Day Message was prepared for the Labor Day editions of the Official and Weekly Labor Press and issued from the headquarters of the American Federation of Labor, Washington, D. C.

The text of the message follows:

"National holidays in America call attention, to exceptional instances in history. Labor Day is an exception to that rule.

"The first Monday in September is not intended to remind us of one particular instance by wars or workers but rather to attract us to their problems, their triumphs and their wrongs.

"The wider acceptance of trade union viewpoint on social and industrial questions is noted on this Labor Day.

"The new public attitude toward labor-displacing machinery is also significant. Workers were formerly assured they could find other employment and the new industries and wants automatically care for those who have been displaced by machinery and scientific processes.

"The new industrial revolution, however, operates in new industries as well as established industries. Low-wage jobs, such as employment at gas filling stations and mass-production industries, are no solution for unemployment of highly skilled workers and well-paid creative labor who have been displaced by automatic processes that are yet in their infancy.

"Organized labor declares that old standards of wages and hours must be rejected. The 10, 9 and 8-hour work day and the living wage theory are obsolete.

"The imagination and courage of inventors and scientists must be guided into the field of distribution and labor's demands for shorter hours and still higher and higher wages be supported.

"Society, for its own well-being, must be conscious of the need of the distribution of the wealth that has been created by machinery and scientific processes.

"It is often claimed that the trade union movement demands equal pay regardless of work performed. Organized labor has a minimum wage. If the union is strong, the employer is not permitted to go below that living line. That minimum is based on the trade conditions, necessities and the standard of living of the workers involved. Exceptionally skilled workers receive higher scales of pay, but in most trades that is arranged between the worker and the employer outside of the union minimum scale.

"Our opponents refuse to accept this situation. They refuse to take our minimum as a base and build up. They would have the minimum their maximum, their highest point, and from that they would grade down. Logically this system leads us back to the sweatshop, and places labor at the whim of the employer.

"Labor is not a trust. By its nature this is impossible. One of its greatest expenses is organizing, and educating non-union workers to the benefits of trade unionism. A trust consists of a comparatively few who control solely for purposes of profit. The union is not organized for profit.

"Labor demands a five-day week, a six-hour day and a wage that will enable a man and his family to live in reasonable comfort."

Roosevelt Condemns As Foes of Progress Reactionaries Who Oppose Reform Measures

Says Charge That Social Security Law and Other Laws for Protection of Masses are Socialism Has Always Been Made by Tories Against Similar Legislation for the Common Good.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—A trenchant criticism of subversives who have flung the charge of Socialism against the labor and reform measures enacted by Congress during the recent session was made by President Roosevelt in a radio address here to the Young Democratic Clubs convening in Milwaukee.

He said the bugaboo of Socialism was hoary with age and had always been trumped up by the forces of reaction as their last resort to block legislation designed to protect the masses against oppression.

Here is the drubbing which the President administered to the standpatters who have opposed the social and labor laws which the first session of the Seventy-fourth Congress placed in the statute laws of the United States:

"Forty years ago, slum conditions in our great cities were much worse than today. Living conditions on farms and working conditions in mines and factories were primitive. But they were taken for granted. Few people considered that the Government had responsibility for assisting, by social devices, for preventing child labor and night work for women.

Reactionaries Oppose Labor Legislation

"In 1911, 24 years ago, when I was first a member of the New York State Legislature, a number of the younger members of the Legislature worked against these old conditions and certain laws governing factory inspection, for workmen's compensation and for the limitation of work for women and children to 54 hours, with one day's rest in seven.

"Those of us who joined in this movement in the Legislature were called reformers, Socialists and evil men.

"We were opposed by many of the same organizations and the same individuals who are now crying aloud about the Socialism involved in social security legislation, the bank deposit insurance, the farm credit, in the saving of homes, in the protection of investors and the regulation of public utilities.

"The reforms, however, for which we were condemned 24 years ago are taken today as a matter of course.

"And so, I believe, will be regarded the reforms that now cause such concern to the reactionaries of 1935.

"We come to an understanding of these new ways of protecting people because our knowledge enlarges and our capacity for organized action increases.

"People have learned that they can carry their burden effectively only by cooperation.

"We have found out how to conquer the ravages of diseases that years ago were regarded as unavoidable and inevitable. We must learn that many other social ills can be cured."

Importance of Unity

On the necessity of unity among progressive forces the President added:

"The reason that the forces of reaction so often defeat the forces of progress is that the Tories of the world are agreed and united in standing still on the same old spot, and, therefore, never run the danger of getting lost or losing their way.

"One might remark in passing that one form of standing still on the same spot consists in agreeing to condemn all progress and letting it go at that.

"Therefore, to the American youth of all parties I submit a message of confidence—Unite and challenge! Rules are not necessarily sacred—principles are. The methods of the old order are not, as some would have you believe, above the challenge of youth.

"Let us carry on the good that the past gave us. The best of that good is the spirit of America. And the spirit of America is the spirit of inquiry, of readjustment, of improvement, above all a spirit in which youth can find the fulfillment of its ideals.

"It is for the new generation to participate in the decisions and to give strength and spirit and continuity to our Government and to our national life."

Auto Workers Claim Bendix Products Company Violated New Labor Relations Act

Washington, D. C. (AFLNS).—The Bendix complaint filed with the new National Labor Relations Board alleging violation of the Wagner-Connery Labor Dispute Act empowering the United Automobile Workers' Union of South Bend, Ind., which charged the Bendix Products Corporation of that city with refusing to recognize the union as the representative of all the employes in accordance with the Labor Disputes Law.

The union petitioned the board to conduct an election for the purpose of confirming the union's claim that it represents a majority of the employes of the company's 4,000 employes.

The Wagner-Connery Act prescribes that a labor organization with a membership of a majority of the employes of the plant shall represent all employes in collective bargaining negotiations.

Charlton Ogburn, counsel for the South Bend Auto Workers' Union, said the case was one of the most important that his organization would place before the Labor Relations Board.

Church Group Says Profit Should Be Subordinate to Social Service

Presbyterian Committee Also Demands Just Wages, Right to Organize, Social Insurance, Unemployment Abolition and Child Labor Ban.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

A ringing declaration that social service instead of maximum profits should be the underlying motive in our system of wealth production and distribution characterized the 1935 Labor Day Message issued by the Committee on Social and Industrial Relations of the Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. The message, signed by T. Guthrie Speers, chairman, and John McEwen, secretary of the committee, was issued from the committee's office in New York City.

Among several facts in the present social and industrial situation which magnify the necessity and importance of religion in terms of spiritual leadership," the message included the "insistent demand that the Church must stand for a social order in which there shall be no locked doors between groups" and that "every opportunity shall be opened and every talent shall have the equal right to earn another talent," adding:

Profit Motive Criticized

"Fair profit as a return for necessary and important contribution in an undertaking is a morally defensible reward.

"The Christian life is not a life unconcerned with possessions and profit but one in which the profit is subordinate to service, in which, if necessary, profit is sacrificed in order that service may be more complete.

"Therefore, the profit motive is defensible only when it is subordinated.

"Why should it be thought incredible that the man of business and industry should put service before profit as we all expect men in the so-called professions—doctors, teachers and ministers—to do?

"Human rights before property rights, liberty and equality for all, distribution of the fruits of labor on the basis of service rendered, society grounded on the principle that no one has a right to the fruits of labor who does not render to society an equivalent return—these are the foundations of the social order demanded today, and such an order is the logical product of the application of Christian ideals."

Church Must Voice Social Justice

Contending that in "such a challenging situation" as now confronts America "the Church must be silent or, worse, indifferent," the message declared Christianity must stand for "social justice and social order" and added: "Unless others voice special interests if they will, the Church must voice the whole mind of Christ frankly and fully on all matters pertaining to social and industrial relations." To this end, the message said, the Presbyterian Church reaffirms its previous declaration favoring:

Assumption by industry of the burdens caused by industrial accidents, disease and death, and the vocational rehabilitation of injured workers.

Right of both employers and employes to organize and bargain collectively.

Recognition by the state, whether so that "no man shall live on the fruits of another man's labor and no man shall be denied the fruits of his own labor."

A living wage, "by which is meant a wage adequate to maintain the worker and his family in health and honor, and to enable him to dispense with the subsidiary earnings of his children up to the age of sixteen."

The "practical application of acknowledged Christian principles to the acquisition and use of wealth; subordination of profit to the creative and cooperative spirit; the observance of such social plans and control as are involved in the economic process which operates for the common good."

The "recognition and maintenance of the rights of free speech, free assembly, and a free press as guaranteed by the Constitution," and the "encouragement of unfettered interchange of mind with mind, as essential to the continuing discovery of truth and the dissemination of knowledge."

Abolition of Unemployment

The message stated that in addition to its former deliverances on remedies for social and industrial problems the Presbyterian Church also declares that "intolerable purpose to work not only for adequate unemployment relief but for the abolition of unemployment so that all who are able to work shall be given opportunity for self-respecting employment in the production and distribution of useful goods" and for "social and State social insurance against "social hazards, illness and old age" so that "provision against these risks may be spread and the intolerable burdens now resting upon those who are least able to bear them can be speedily lightened."

Economic Security Violated

The declaration also favored "moral force instead of brute force, material force or violence" in finding a better technique of social change in the present industrial crisis, the full acceptance of responsibility to "keep open the freedom of discussion which will enable us to solve our problems by an appeal to reason rather than to might," and the importance and "inescapable obligation" of keeping constantly before the "minds of statesmen who make our laws and the leaders who control industry" the necessity of providing economic security for the great masses of our people.

Child Labor Condemned

The message insisted that the "continuing evil of child labor, especially at a time when millions of adults are unemployed, is a disgrace to our Christian civilization and an important hindrance to recovery of social and industrial prosperity. To end the exploitation of children, the statement declared "we must have joint powers on the part of Federal, State and local governments to deal with this evil effectively and each must do its proper part to achieve real success in social relief to which the churches, the schools and social agencies have given for many years such splendid support."

In regard to the membership of the United States in the International Organization the message stated it "offers a great opportunity for real international cooperation, of a non-political character, in one of the greatest of humanitarian institutions since the foundation of Christianity itself."

"Present Conditions"

The message concluded, "make it imperative that the Christian ideal for society as well as for individual should be set forth in full assurance that in it alone can the wisdom and power be found which will lead us to a better social order for which we all pray—the Kingdom of God."

Draper Urges Big Public Works Projects In Canada to Make Jobs for Unemployed

President of Trades and Labor Congress Cites Social Welfare Laws Enacted in 1935 as Example of Canadian Organized Labor's Influence in the Dominion Parliament.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Ottawa, Can.—Unemployment still remains the great unsolved Canadian industrial problem, according to the Labor Day message issued by Percy R. Draper, president of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, from the headquarters of the Congress here.

Confronted with the failure of private industry to provide work for the jobless and the feeble efforts of governmental authorities in connection with this problem, Mr. Draper recommended public works projects sufficiently comprehensive to provide work for all the unemployed.

"General agreement," he said, "has been reached by all classes of the population that the government today continues to be our major problem and the one which must be solved before the community in general can experience anything approaching prosperity.

Many Are Still Jobless

"The legislation of the last session of Parliament in large part laid a sure foundation for private industry, but in the main our various law-making bodies, Dominion and provincial, have not yet provided any permanent solution to the problem of lack of jobs.

"Through public works programs governments have provided a huge volume of employment, a volume which was absolutely essential in the years through which we have been passing, but the profits of industry, if not placed all workers back at work and at best they are only of a temporary nature.

"Private industry has heretofore provided the most important source of jobs for the majority of people and, insofar as one can predict the immediate future, that condition will continue.

Failure of Private Initiative

"Up to the present these jobs provided through privately controlled industry have been inadequate to meet legislative initiative.

"In pointing out that governments have not provided the cure for the unemployment problem it is at least of equal consequence to note that private initiative first failed to offer the wage-earning opportunities.

"When times are such that employment is relatively plentiful the sphere of activity of private industry is sufficient to insuring a more equitable distribution of the profits of the industry in which they work.

Urges Exploitation of Natural Resources

"In view of the failure of other powerful agencies to provide needed jobs, it is suggested that organized labor might well turn its attention to that field, to see whether its activities thought could not devise some ways and means for a greater exploitation of our natural resources to provide jobs and to increase the wealth of Canada, particularly so that the less fortunate might be amply taken care of."

Labor's Influence In Legislation

In discussing the enactment of welfare laws affecting the Canadian masses by the Dominion Parliament this year, Mr. Draper emphasized the influence of organized labor. On this question he said:

"The passing of a number of measures aimed at bettering the economic condition of labor and the masses of the people generally—unemployment insurance, one day's rest in seven, the eight-hour day, the economic council, and similar measures—embodied the principles which the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada have constantly advocated for half a century.

"While time alone will make possible a precise analysis of the benefits which will accrue to the workers from these measures, their effect cannot fail to be beneficial.

"One point which I should like to emphasize is the fact that it was organized labor which pioneered in creating the popular opinion needful to make these various measures popularly acceptable.

"The lesson this teaches is clear: Labor must continue to educate the public to the needs of the workers in order to create the atmosphere in which our legislators will place on the statute books the progressively beneficial legislation which the masses of the people constantly need."

American Tobacco Company Gives Lexington Building Job to Anti-Union Concern

Lexington, Ky. (AFLNS)—The solidarity of anti-union employers was well illustrated here when the American Tobacco Company, which is on the "unfair list" of the Lexington Building Trades Council, gave the contract for the construction of a warehouse to the Fisk Carter Construction Company, which is also on the Council's "unfair list."

The Building Trades Council declared the Fisk Carter concern pays common laborers only 25 cents per hour and carpenters 50 cents. Because of its anti-union position the trade union standards the Council urges organized workers everywhere to stop buying products of the American Tobacco Company.

Hosiery Workers Retain Old Wage Scale in New Agreement

Philadelphia, Pa. (AFLNS).—Officials of the American Federation of Hosiery Workers announced that the wage provisions of its agreement with manufacturers effective September 1, 1935, will be changed. The manufacturers had demanded a drastic pay cut in the new agreement, while the union demanded an increase of 20 cents per dozen pairs of hosiery. Leading J. Rosenwald, arbitrator in the negotiations, refused both demands.

The Federation said it won its demand for a continuation of a 36-hour week limitation on double-shift footers, with payment of the "extra" 11 per cent of weekly earnings on this class of work.

AUTO WORKERS GET CHARTER FROM AFL

Green Presents Document With Demand for Wages High Enough to "Keep the Worker in Decency the Year Around."

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Detroit, Mich.—William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, presented the A. F. of L. charter to the first constitutional convention of the International Automobile Workers' Union here with the declaration that a major objective of the new union is to secure an annual wage sufficient to "keep the worker in decency the year around."

"In effect, all that we are asking," he added, "represents your share of the wealth you produce. Executive officers through large salaries and bonuses are diverting to themselves larger shares of wealth than belong to them. We are going to change all that."

As one of the initial steps in realizing the higher wage objective, Mr. Green urged a recruiting drive to enroll a quarter of a million automobile workers in the union. The magnitude of the job ahead was revealed by reports from Sr. Francis J. Dillon, national organizer for the A. F. of L., who said the unions "recognized and new organization have 25,000 dues-paying members. The size of the task did not daunt the enthusiasm of the 250 delegates to the convention. They received the 250,000-member objective with loud applause.

Declaring that the new union "is historic in the progress of the American labor movement," Mr. Green said it would undertake to enroll all production workers and the parts workers in the automobile industry, but not members of existing craft unions.

In reference to reports that an attempt would be made to bring all the auto workers into the organization, Mr. Green said authority to extend the international unions' jurisdiction could be given only by the annual convention of the American Federation of Labor.

MORRISON URGES FIRM GERMAN GOODS BOYCOTT

A. F. of L. Secretary Tells Washington Mass Meeting That Ending Trade Is Effective Method of Combatting Nazi Brutality.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—A strong condemnation of the brutality used by Hitler's Government against trade unionists and other minority groups and praise of the boycott of German goods as a service as an effective weapon to humanize the Nazi dictatorship were the features of the address of Frank Morrison, secretary of the American Federation of Labor, at a mass meeting held in the Washington Auditorium. Catholics and Jews in the Masonic Auditorium.

Pointing out that the complete destruction of the independent trade unions in Germany, which is the ruthless suppression of Germany's Jewish population and the forcible seizure of the properties of the Nazi regime, which seized control of German labor unions, maltreated officials, confiscated the funds of the workers, and confiscated the funds and property of the unions, Mr. Morrison stressed the fact that the organized labor movement is engaged in the patriotic work of turning into a common brotherhood all workers without regard to creed, nationality or color.

Boycott First Adopted by A. F. of L.

He said that after receiving full and authentic reports regarding the intolerable conditions imposed by the opponents by the Nazi government, the 1933 convention of the American Federation of Labor joined with other public-spirited organizations in officially adopting a boycott against German trade goods and German service, which the convention said was to continue until the German government recognizes the right of the working people of Germany to form into a common brotherhood all workers without regard to creed, nationality or color.

Boycott Fired Adopted by A. F. of L.

He said that after receiving full and authentic reports regarding the intolerable conditions imposed by the opponents by the Nazi government, the 1933 convention of the American Federation of Labor joined with other public-spirited organizations in officially adopting a boycott against German trade goods and German service, which the convention said was to continue until the German government recognizes the right of the working people of Germany to form into a common brotherhood all workers without regard to creed, nationality or color.

Following this action the 1934 convention of the A. F. of L., Mr. Morrison added, reaffirmed the boycott approved by the 1933 convention and recommended that "it be enforced even with greater vigor."

Labor Includes Ban on Fascism

The 1935 convention also declared, Mr. Morrison said, that the "American Federation of Labor pledges itself to favoring a full measure of support to all victims of fascism and particularly to refugees from Fascist countries, and to those brave heroes of Labor who, in spite of dictorships, have involved, continue to hold the thread of labor solidarity and labor organization in even the Fascist countries" and urged the fullest support of the American Federation of Labor to the International Federation of Workers of Europe which was organized by interested and affiliated national and international unions to aid all workers suffering under Fascist dictatorships.

Mr. Morrison urged the large audience to write Adolf Hitler, German Chancellor of Labor and use its full influences in applying economic pressure to Germany.

Mayor Charles Leaman, of Baltimore, Catholic Welfare Conference, protested not only against religious persecution in Germany, but also against "the gradual destruction of civil liberties in America."

Waterbury Garment Workers Win Strike For Union Shop

Waterbury, Conn. (AFLNS)—After a seven weeks' strike the employes of the Waterlown Undergarment Company here won an agreement by which the union shop is established. The American Union was given full recognition and the demand for increases from 5c to 50 per cent, which caused the strike was practically revoked.

The company employs over 450 workers, 95 per cent of whom are women. They were not organized when the strike was declared, but all of them are now members of the Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

About half of those who struck were reemployed when the agreement was signed, with the understanding that the rest would be reinstated as rapidly as work could be provided, which was estimated to be about two weeks' time at the most.

Government Must Become Protector Of Human Welfare, Green Declares

A. F. of L. President, in Labor Day Message, Says "Society Must Offer Even-Handed Opportunity for Those Who Invest Creative Labor With Those Who Invest Capital"—Claims Federal Government Has Legal Power to Regulate Industry for Social Purposes—Asserts the Nation Must Devise Its Method "of Overruling Any Government Authority That Blocks Social Progress."

The imperative necessity of the Government assuming responsibility for the social welfare of the masses, with complete authority to enact welfare legislation and regulate industry for social purposes, is stressed by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, in his Labor Day Message prepared for the Official and Weekly Labor Press. He points out that this principle involves equality of opportunity for both those who invest labor and capital.

Mr. Green emphasizes the fact that the Supreme Court of the United States in its decision holding the National Industrial Recovery Act unconstitutional denied to Congress the authority to enact social welfare legislation and holds a way must be evolved by which the people collectively may veto the action of Governmental authorities which bar social progress.

Mr. Green's Labor Day Message was prepared for the Labor Day editions of the Official and Weekly Labor Press and issued from the headquarters of the American Federation of Labor, Washington, D. C.

The text of the message follows:

"An achievement of the past year constitutes a fundamental gain that gives to wage earners the key to self-progress.

"For decades society has recognized that the union was the wage earner's method of increasing his income and raising his standards of living, but never until Section 7-A of the National Recovery Act was made law did society put this right into legal form.

"When employers refused to conform to law, labor asked that the Government be authorized to assume responsibility for preventing employers from interfering with labor's right to organize in unions and bargaining collectively through representatives of their own choosing. This was written into the National Labor Relations Act.

"Although judges may do their best to restrict the number of workers to whom this law will apply, the Federal Government has made this important declaration of policy for whatever area of labor relations the Federal courts may permit to come under its jurisdiction.

"It is now a generally accepted policy that Government shall protect rights growing out of ownership of property. This was a more obvious obligation necessary to basic order in society.

"The time is now overdue for Government to assume responsibility for assuring to men and women rights as human beings so that their welfare may have at least equal consideration with wealth and the products of their labor.

"There is involved in this issue which labor has raised the key to the future of our nation. It proposes that society offer even-handed opportunity for those who invest creative labor with those who invest capital.

"The progress and the enduring development of our nation depend upon the acceptance by our Government of its responsibility for human welfare.

"An avowed purpose of our Government is to promote the general welfare, and Congress is given power to lay and collect taxes to provide for the general welfare, together with the power to regulate commerce between the States is the basis for labor's belief that the Federal Government has legal power to legislate for social welfare.

"We know that the moral and economic need for such legislation puts still further obligation upon Congress.

"Industries now organized upon a national basis, buying their crude materials from any supply center in the nation and selling in a world market, are in no sense local institutions. They can escape any regulation not national in scope.

"Unless regulated, cut-throat competition brings sweatshop labor conditions. The welfare of our 49,000,000 persons gainfully employed by business enterprises depends on whether society places a restraining hand on business struggle for profits for the few and forces more equitable division of returns from joint work.

"Our Supreme Court has recently rebuked Congress and the Administration for their attempts to build up national regulation of work conditions and trade practices. They interpreted the Constitution so as to limit sharply the scope of interstate commerce and virtually to deny Congress the power, to legislate for social welfare. But, as the Chief Justice has truly declared, 'The Constitution is what the courts say it is'—until the Sovereign Nation speaks.

"Even before when the Supreme Court blocked the path of human welfare by the Dred Scott decision, the nation wiped out that decision. It cost human blood and life and for years has blighted the economic progress of our southern states.

"We hope to solve our present constitutional problem by less costly methods. Greater familiarity with labor and industrial problems will teach judges the need for Federal action for regulation of industry for social purposes.

"The Sovereign Nation must also establish its method of overruling any governmental authority that blocks social progress.

"This is the problem which presses for labor's solution equally with that of organizing all wage and salaried workers in strong labor unions. Organized power is the first fundamental in progress for the welfare of all who work.

"Labor Day, 1935, finds progress in both the political and union organization fields. There are problems, but none that cannot be solved by courage and the will to find a solution.

"Wage earners must first rally together in unions to fight against unfair wages and hours and to set up the machinery through which they may have representation and voice in deciding issues that affect their interests.

"The year ahead presents the challenge of great opportunities."

Labor Government's Unicameral Parliament In Queensland, Australia, Is Efficient

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The redistricting of the State of Nebraska to provide a unicameral or one-house legislature instead of the bicameral or two-house body which now exists, and the establishment of the State, brings to light the interesting fact that the State of Queensland, Australia, controlled by the organized labor movement, was the first country in recent modern times to establish the unicameral parliamentary system.

When the trade union movement secured control of the Queensland Government shortly after the outbreak of the World War, the legislature consisted of two houses. By a majority in the lower house organized labor won the right to initiate legislation and advocate the laws. It was handicapped, however, by an upper house consisting largely of antilabor conservatives appointed either for life or for a long term of years.

At first the Tories who controlled the upper house defeated a number of outstanding labor measures. To prevent their program for the workers being sabotaged in this manner, the Labor Government initiated and carried through legislation which abolished the upper house and transformed the legislature into a unicameral body.

The Tories appealed their revolutionary action to the King of England with the recommendation that His Majesty veto the laws. The King's advisers, the Privy Council, gave the act his approval.

The Queensland Labor Government finds that the unicameral parliament is an efficient system for enacting legislation.

All political groups have representation in the parliament according to their strength at the polls.

Bills are discussed and final decision reached by representatives directly elected by citizens to whom they must answer for approval.

There is no jogging between two houses, no deadlocks of conference committees. When a bill is passed by the one-house parliament it is the law of the land.

Senator George N. Norris, who is responsible for the adoption of the unicameral system in Nebraska, believes it will be as efficient in that State as experience has shown it to be in Queensland.